AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for determining ~~the~~ an impact of a multicomponent natural product mixture on ~~the~~ a biological profile of a disease within a group of living systems comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a biological profile of the disease by comparing the biological profile of a group of living systems with symptoms of the disease with the biological profile of a reference ~~(or healthy)~~ group of living systems, using a multivariate analysis;

(b) determining ~~the~~ an impact of a series of samples of the multicomponent mixture on the biological profile of the disease, in which samples the concentrations of one or more natural components or groups of natural components differ, using a multivariate analysis;

(c) determining the composition of the samples of the multicomponent mixture that have shown in step (b) a desired impact on the biological profile of the disease, using a multivariate analysis;

(d) identifying within the compositions as determined in step (c) the effective natural components or groups of natural components and their respective concentrations required for having the desired impact on the biological profile of the disease, using a multivariate analysis.

2. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising, after step (d), the steps of ~~wherein step (d) is followed by a step~~

(e) preparing ~~in which~~ a set of multicomponent natural product mixtures ~~is prepared~~ on the basis of the information obtained in step ~~(d~~ (d), which mixtures are expected to display the desired impact on the biological profile of the disease, and ~~whereby step (e) is followed by a step~~

(f) determining ~~wherein~~ the impact on the biological profile of the disease ~~is determined of~~ from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e), using multivariate analysis.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, further comprising, after step (e), the step of:

(g) selecting ~~wherein from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e)~~ one or more multicomponent mixtures from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e) wherein the ~~are selected in a step (g), which~~ selected multicomponent mixtures display a desired and improved impact on the biological profile of the disease.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) , determining a biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a ~~use is made of at least one~~ spectrometric technique, ~~at least one~~ an electromigration-based technique ~~or~~ , ~~at least one~~ a chromatographic technique ~~to determine the profile of the disease~~ and a combination thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) , determining an impact of a series of samples of the multicomponent mixture on the biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a ~~use is made of at least one~~ a spectrometric technique, ~~at least one~~ an electromigration-based technique ~~or~~ , ~~at least one~~ a chromatographic technique ~~to determine the impact of the series of samples of the multicomponent mixture on the biological profile of the disease. samples~~ and a combination thereof .

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (c) , determining the composition of the samples of the multicomponent mixture is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a ~~use is made of at least one~~ spectrometric technique, ~~at least one~~ an electromigration-based technique ~~or~~ , ~~at least one~~ a chromatographic technique ~~to determine the composition of the samples~~ and a combination thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (d) identifying within the compositions as determined in step (c) the effective natural components or groups of natural components and their respective concentrations required for having the desired impact on the biological profile of the disease is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a ~~use is made of at least one~~ spectrometric technique, ~~at least one~~ an electromigration-based technique ~~or~~ , ~~at least one~~ a chromatographic technique ~~to identify the effective components and their respective concentrations required for having an impact on the biological profile of the disease~~ and a combination thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein in step (f) , determining the impact on the biological profile of the disease from the set of multicomponent mixtures as prepared in step (e) is performed by a technique selected from the group consisting of a ~~use is made of at least one~~ spectrometric technique, ~~at least one~~ an electromigration-based technique ~~or~~ , ~~at least one~~ a chromatographic technique ~~to identify the effective components and their respective concentrations required for having an impact on the biological profile of the disease~~ and a combination thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein said method is performed by ~~use is made of~~ two or more spectrometric techniques.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein ~~use is made of at least~~ said method is performed by a nuclear magnetic resonance technique and a mass spectrometry technique.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the biological profile includes one or more metabolic, genetic and/or proteomic profiles.

12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the biological profile includes the metabolic, genetic and proteomic profiles.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the multicomponent mixture comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a nutraceutical product, a functional food product, a herbal medicinal product , a biofluid, ~~or~~ an ~~(extract of)~~ extract of a biofluid and a combination thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined ~~of~~ from at least one type of ~~bodyfluid~~ body fluid.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined ~~of~~ from at least one type of tissue.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined ~~of~~ from at least two different types of ~~bodyfluid~~ body fluid..

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a) the biological profiles are determined using one or more of the following biomarkers; genes, transcripts, proteins, metabolites and (trace) elements.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~number of~~ samples of the multicomponent mixture ~~which the composition is determined~~ in step (c) ~~is~~ comprises at least 2 samples.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein the ~~number of~~ samples of the multicomponent mixture ~~of which the composition is determined~~ in step (c) ranges from 5-100

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) Method ~~as defined above~~ according to claim 1 , wherein the multicomponent natural product mixture is a herbal mixture.

21. (Withdrawn) Method for preparing a natural product-based medicament wherein the effective natural components or groups of natural components as identified in step (d) as defined in

claim 1 is combined in the respective concentrations required for having a desired impact on the biological profile of the disease.

22. (Withdrawn) Use of a multivariate mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above for preparing a natural product-based medicament.

23. (Withdrawn) Use of a multivariate mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above in a food application.

24. (Withdrawn) Medicament comprising a multicomponent mixture as prepared in step (e) as defined in claim 2 or as selected in step (g) as defined above.

25. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of at least one natural component or group of natural components of the mixture is adjusted to ensure that the at least one natural component or group of natural components of the mixture has the desired impact on the biological profile of the disease.

26. (Withdrawn) Use of the method according to claim 1, for setting up breeding programs, Good Agriculture/Manufacture Practice (GAP/GMP) protocols and post- harvesting processing of natural products for use in natural product-based medicines.